

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00
DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /084 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5939

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 03500

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: VISIT OF FRG ARMS CONTROL COMMISSIONER

REFS: (A) STATE 042130 DTG 250120Z FEB 77

(B) MBFR VIENNA 0068 DTG 241521Z FEB 77

(C) STATE 038370 DTG 190056Z FEB 77

(D) USNATO 5321 DTG 301717Z SEP 76

1. AS INSTRUCTED REF A WE DISCUSSED THE SUBSTANCE AND
TIMING OF FRG ARMS CONTROL COMMISSIONER
RUTH'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON WITH HIM ON FEBRUARY 25.
REGARDING TIMING, RUTH SAID HE HAD PLANNED TO SUGGEST
MARCH 17-18. IF THESE DATES WERE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE U.S.
SIDE, HE COULD MAKE IT ON MARCH 15-16. THE PROBLEM WITH
MARCH 14-15 WAS THAT RUTH HAS AN IMPORTANT COMMITMENT
ON SUNDAY, MARCH 13 WHICH HE IS RELUCTANT TO BREAK.

2. RUTH SAID THE PROSPECTIVE CONSULTATIONS WERE VERY
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TIMELY AND THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING THE NEW
ACDA DIRECTOR. HE SAID HE WOULD TRY TO GIVE US SOON
MORE DETAILED SUBSTANTIVE REMARKS ON WHAT THE FRG
BELIEVED IT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSULTATIONS ON
MBFR. AS FOR THE CURRENT U.S. MBFR POLICY REVIEW, RUTH
SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING PRELIMINARY INFOR-
MATION ON U.S. THINKING PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR

WASHINGTON IF POSSIBLE. HE SAID THAT A DISCUSSION OF DATA STRATEGY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE CONSULTATIONS ON MBFR.

3. WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF DATA, RUTH SAID THAT THE EAST APPEARED DETERMINED TO STICK TO THE FIGURE OF 805,000, CLAIMING THAT EVERYONE HAD BEEN COUNTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WESTERN DEFINITION. HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE WEST NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CURRENT EASTERN STANCE CAUSED US TOO MUCH OF A PROBLEM. HE SAID WE SHOULD SEEK WAYS AND MEANS OF SOLICITING FURTHER INFORMATION, AND THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL TO TALK ABOUT THIS SUBJECT IN WASHINGTON. RUTH THEN INDICATED HE DID NOT OBJECT TO THE TABLING OF U.S. AND SOVIET DATA (REF B), AND THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN AS TO HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM IN THE NATO CONTEXT. RUTH VOICED THE OPINION THAT A DATA DISCUSSION ON THE TABLING OF U.S./SOVIET DATA COULD PROBABLY BE CONDUCTED IN NATO WITHOUT IRRITATING THE FRENCH.

4. OTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON, ACCORDING TO RUTH, WOULD BE SALT AND THE VARIOUS ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION AT THE CCD, SUCH AS A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN, CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, AS WELL AS THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT. RUTH WELCOMED THE SECRETARY'S INITIATIVE TO CONSULT AT NATO ON SALT FOLLOWING HIS MOSCOW VISIT.

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5. WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS MEETING WITH RUTH TO MAKE CLEAR THAT U.S. OFFICIALS HAD ADDRESSED THE FRG "NON-PAPER" ON PHASING ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS (REF C). RUTH ADMITTED THAT ACDA ACTING DIRECTOR SLOSS' POINT ABOUT THE POTENTIAL UTILITY OF THE PAPER IF REPEAT IF THE EAST ADMITTED A DISPARITY IN GROUND FORCES WAS WELL TAKEN (REF D). RUTH SAID HE WILL RAISE THE TACTICAL HANDLING OF THE NON-PAPER IN WASHINGTON IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATING SITUATION.

6. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONVERSATION, RUTH INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO BE KNOWN AS THE FRG "ARMS CONTROL COMMISSIONER" RATHER THAN THE "DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER" SINCE THE ESSENCE OF HIS WORK WAS THE FORMER RATHER THAN THE LATTER. WE ASSURED HIM THAT

HENCEFORTH WE WOULD ALSO USE THIS DESIGNATION.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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